University Hall

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UNIVERSITY
HALL

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BROWN
UNIVERSITY

EXERCISES

COMMEMORATING

THE

RESTORATION OF UNIVERSITY HALL

BROWN UNIVERSITY

OCTOBER THE TWENTY-FOURTH

A. D. MDCCCCV

WITH THE ADDRESSES

BY

PRESIDENT WILLIAM H. P. FAUNCE

GOVERNOR GEORGE H. UTTER

AND

PROFESSOR WILLIAM MACDONALD

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

MDCCCCV

1906
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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

IN January, 1905, Mr. Marsden J. Perry of Providence transmitted to the President of the University the following letter:

DEAR DR. FAUNCE:

It has recently come to my knowledge that University Hall is a brick building that was plastered over about two generations ago. I will, if your Corporation approves, at my own expense, have the plaster removed, the cracks in the building properly repaired, replace the present arrangement of glass in the windows with panes of the original size, and have all the brick work given a treatment that will restore the tone of weather and time that the chemical action of the lime has removed. I think this will add greatly to the harmony of the group of buildings among which it stands, and give us back a most interesting and important example of architecture of the period in which it was erected. The work to be done under the direction of your Superintendent of Grounds and Buildings, Mr. E. A. Burlingame.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) MARSDEN J. PERRY.

The gift tendered by Mr. Perry was accepted by the Corporation, and the work of restoration carried out during the summer vacation of 1905 under the direction of Mr. Burlingame.

Exercises commemorating the restoration of University Hall were held on Tuesday, October 24, at four o'clock. An academic procession of Corporation, Faculty, invited guests, and students formed on the front campus and marched to Sayles Hall, where, after prayer by Rev. Edward Holyoke, D. D., minister of the Calvary Baptist Church, of Providence, the addresses which follow were given.

Following the exercises at Sayles Hall, University Hall was open to the public for inspection.

There were present at the exercises, as guests of the University, the Governor of the State and his staff, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Attorney-General, the Justices of the Supreme Court, the Justices of the Superior Court, the Acting Mayor of Providence, and the following representatives of historical and patriotic societies:

Rhode Island Historical Society: Professor Albert Harkness, Providence, R. I.; Mr. William B. Weeden, Providence, R. I.

Sons of the American Revolution: Mr. J. Edward Studley, Providence, R. I.; Hon Charles Warren Lippitt, Providence, R. I.

Society of Colonial Wars: Professor Wilfred H. Munro, Providence, R. I.; Mr. Arthur W. Dennis, Providence, R. I.

Society of Mayflower Descendants: Professor A. Clinton Crowell, Providence, R. I.; Mr. George T. Hart, Providence, R. I.

Rhode Island Society of the Cincinnati: Mr. Thomas Arnold Peirce, East Greenwich, R. I.; Rev. Daniel Goodwin, D. D., East Greenwich, R. I.

Rhode Island Citizens' Historical Association: Mr. Thomas W. Bicknell, Providence, R. I.; Hon. Elisha Dyer, Providence, R. I.

Society of Colonial Dames: Mrs. Nathaniel Terry Bacon, Peace Dale, R. I.; Mrs. William Binney, Providence, R. I.

Daughters of the American Revolution: Mrs. Elizabeth H. Swinburne, Newport, R. I.; Miss Anna B. Manchester, Bristol, R. I.

Descendants of Colonial Governors: Mrs. Jonathan Russell Bullock, Bristol, R. I.

ADDRESS

BY

WILLIAM HERBERT PERRY FAUNCE, D.D., LL.D.

PRESIDENT OF

BROWN UNIVERSITY

WE are assembled here to-day to commemorate the restoration of our most important building, one of the most interesting buildings of America. There are two or three buildings in other universities that are older than University Hall, but none that possesses the historical associations which cluster about this ancient structure. Many new buildings have been erected on the campus of Brown University during the last few years, but of them all there is not one so precious, not one that touches the imagination so deeply, as does this ancient "college edifice."

Yet for over seventy years University Hall has been hidden from the public view, disguised by the coat of dark-green stucco which the poor taste of a former generation imposed upon it. Gradually, however, this covering has fallen into decay, and the time came when it was necessary either to renew the plaster or to strip it entirely away and uncover the original exterior.

At this point a public-spirited citizen, who had already done much for the University by increasing both its library and its endowment, came forward and generously offered to bear the whole expense of the restoration. We all unite to-day in expressing to him our warm appreciation

of his gift, and our pleasure in the complete success of the undertaking.

But this is not the first time that the corridors of the "college edifice" have been thrown open to the public. One hundred and fifteen years ago George Washington ascended College Hill, and was welcomed in the library on the second floor of University Hall by President James Manning. After the President had presented, on behalf of the Corporation, an address of welcome, Washington replied, in the stately sentences with which some of us are familiar:

"To the Corporation of Rhode Island College:

Gentlemen:— The circumstances which have until this time prevented you from offering your congratulations on my advancement to the station I hold in the government of the United States, do not diminish the pleasure I feel in receiving this flattering proof of your affection and esteem, for which I request you will accept my thanks.

In repeating thus publicly my sense of the zeal you displayed for the success of the cause of your country, I only add a single suffrage to the general testimony which all, who were acquainted with you in the most adverse and doubtful moments of our struggle for liberty and independence, have constantly borne in your favor.

While I cannot remain insensible to the indulgence with which you regard the influence of my example and the tenor of my conduct, I rejoice in having so favorable an opportunity of felicitating the State of Rhode Island on the co-operation I am sure to find in the measures adopted by the guardians of literature in this place, for improving the morals of the rising generation, and inculcating upon their minds principles peculiarly calculated for the preservation of our rights and liberties. You may rely on whatever protection I may be able to afford in so important an object as the education of our youth.

I will now conclude, gentlemen, by expressing my acknowledgments for the tender manner in which you mention the restoration of my health on a late occasion, and with ardent wishes that Heaven may prosper the literary Institution under your care, in giving you the best of its blessings in this world, as well as in the world to come."

While we have with us no representative of the national government to-day, we are glad to welcome the Chief Magistrate of this State, who always receives a warm welcome at Brown University. It gives me great pleasure to present His Excellency Governor Utter.

ADDRESS

BY

His Excellency George H. Utter

Governor of
the State of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations

THE four years that a boy passes in college are four years of great importance to himself, of greater importance to his friends and associates, and of greatest importance to the community in which he exercises an influence in after years. How essential it is that every boy who comes under college influence should be molded on the lines that make for righteous manhood! As soon as a lad enters this institution and places his name on the registrar's book, he steps out on the campus holding as his own all of the traditions here clustered, and possessed of that spirit which afterwards marks him as a Brown man. Books may help somewhat in the development of this spirit, but it is more the men and the associations of men which surround the young life that shape its future. The boy who thinks that college life will consist only in studying books and attending recitations in the classroom has only a partial conception of what college life really is.

This State has been made rich by men who have gone out from this institution, men whose influence has extended over our country and over the world. It is the spirit that these men have carried into their work, the Brown spirit, that has made them a power for good in the world, and that has

reflected their honor upon the old college itself.

May the inspiration coming from those who are to-day giving their lives for others, like that which must come from close association with this old building whose restoration we to-day celebrate, be the true inspiration of every young man in this institution; and may the boy who goes out with the Brown spirit go out with the spirit of work for humanity!

ADDRESS

BY

WILLIAM MACDONALD, PH.D., LL.D.

GEORGE L. LITTLEFIELD PROFESSOR OF
AMERICAN HISTORY IN BROWN UNIVERSITY

THE event which we celebrate to-day is, I believe, unique in the annals of American colleges and universities. Other institutions have renovated, enlarged, or modernized their early buildings, some have rejoiced in new structures modelled on old lines; but in none, so far as I am aware, has an ancient hall been stripped of the unsightly garment which for seventy years obscured and vulgarized its features, and been received afresh into the fellowship of the university, clothed in all the noble beauty of its youth. It is as though one whom we knew and loved in earlier days, but whose only reminder had for many years been some treasured picture, returned to us after long absence, softened and matured, indeed, by age, yet showing us the old familiar face, speaking to us in the old familiar voice. Happy the university that can thus bind past and present together as it works for the future, that can still teach in ancient halls the truths which the present generation needs to learn!

To tell with the fulness it deserves the story of University Hall would be to trace the history of Brown University. That history has yet to be written; but when it is written, I venture to think that no institution of higher learning in this country

will be found to have sprung from more remarkable conditions, or to have been established in more interesting or significant times. Never, surely, has the world been more widely or profoundly stirred than in the second half of the eighteenth century. When the College of Rhode Island was founded, Europe had but just emerged from the great Seven-Years' war —a war which transferred to Great Britain the vast French possessions in North America and India, left England the undisputed mistress of the ocean, made it the greatest colonial empire the world has ever seen, and opened the way for its commercial supremacy. Prussia, though exhausted by the war, was at last a first-class power, the potential core of later German unity, and an instinctive and inflexible opponent of France and all its works. Russia, under the able and notorious Catharine II., was intriguing in every European capital, undermining Poland, crossing wherever possible the path of Frederick the Great, and pressing unceasingly, without haste and without rest, against the eastern European wall. Spain was a decadent name, Austria a disappointed German state, Italy a geographical expression. In France, one had but to listen to hear the ominous rum-

blings of the French Revolution; but the rulers of France did not listen, and grovelled yet the more in extravagance and vice. Western Europe was on the eve of the greatest social upheaval of history, and knew it not.

In America, conditions were no less portentous. The expulsion of the French, which had put an end to the long struggle between France and England for the control of the continent, had, to be sure, brought peace on the border, and apparently opened the way for the expansion of the English settlements beyond the narrow limits of the Atlantic coast area into the Ohio and Mississippi valleys. It was soon made to appear, however, that the colonies were not to be left in the position of practical independence which they had hitherto occupied, but that a reorganization of the English colonial administration, in the interest of a firmer control of America, was in contemplation. George III., though a sovereign of greater ability than historians have commonly given him credit for, was possessed by a notion of royal prerogative little likely to brook opposition from petty communities beyond the sea, contemptuously disregardful of public opinion, and bent upon breaking down the

influence of the great Whig families whom William Pitt particularly represented.

Events moved quickly. The peace of Paris, bringing to an end the Seven-Years' war, was signed in February, 1763. In October, a royal proclamation created the English government of Quebec, and closed to settlement the vast region west of the Appalachian mountains and south of the great lakes. In March, 1764, one week after the charter of the College of Rhode Island was granted by the General Assembly, Grenville gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill for the collection of stamp duties in America, the proceeds to be used for "defraying the expenses of defending, protecting, and securing" the colonies; for the cost of the war had borne heavily on the English taxpayer, and it was felt that America should contribute more fully and more regularly than it had done towards the expenses of its administration. Further to provide the revenue needed to pay the salaries of colonial governors and judges, and to maintain a standing army of ten thousand men, substantial duties were imposed on certain colonial imports and exports.

Strongly as the colonies opposed the idea of parliamentary taxation, they were unable

to suggest any practicable way by which America might contribute, regularly and equitably, towards the expenses of their administration and defence. Accordingly, after a year of delay, the stamp act, in March, 1765, became law. With it went an act for quartering troops in the colonies. But the forcible nullification of the stamp act by the people throughout the country, together with the declaration of the Stamp Act Congress against taxation without representation, speedily put an end to all hope of a revenue from stamp duties; and in March, 1766, the obnoxious act was repealed.

But the snake was only scotched, not killed. The repeal of the stamp act was accompanied by a formal declaration, now for the first time made, of the right of Parliament to tax the colonies in all cases whatsoever. In the summer of 1767, the New York assembly was suspended for refusing to comply with the provisions of the quartering act; a new schedule of duties on colonial imports was enacted; and a board of customs commissioners for America was created. The Massachusetts General Court, in a circular letter to the other colonies, protested against the arbitrary and unprecedented course of the home govern-

ment; and on its refusal to rescind the circular at the demand of Lord Hillsborough, the secretary of state for the colonies, was dissolved. In the fall and winter of 1768, the town of Boston was garrisoned by British troops, Americans were impressed for service in the British navy, the customs regulations were enforced with rigor, and the House of Lords urged that persons resisting the crown officers be arrested and sent to England for trial. This time it was the Virginia House of Burgesses that protested, with dissolution of the assembly as the immediate punishment.

Such was the state of Europe and America when this college was born, and when the hall whose restoration we celebrate today was planned. With the legends of "prerogative" and "divine right" surrounding every imprint of the royal seal; with ignorance, arbitrariness, selfishness, and coercion characterizing the attitude of Parliament towards America; with trade and industry disturbed and public opinion inflamed by attempts to tax the colonies without their consent, the Baptists of Rhode Island and Pennsylvania undertook the establishment of "a seminary of polite literature subject to the government of the Baptists." Little time, it would seem, for

education when the whole people must struggle for independence, little need of "polite literature" with ships of war on the coast and soldiers at the gates.

We need not linger over the details of the founding of the college, or the controversies to which some of its incidents have given rise. What we need principally to remember is that the college was originated by Baptists, that its one sure foundation was religious liberty, that it was intended primarily to educate ministers, and that James Manning was its first president. That it should have sprung from the minds of Baptists was itself a distinction; for the Baptists of America had thitherto been regarded as setting small store by education, and as enjoying best the ministrations of zealous but unaided intelligences. With such an historic attitude, the demand for an educated ministry evidenced a great awakening. The claim of non-sectarian character for Brown has, indeed, been challenged on the ground that a majority of the governing body, with the president, must always be Baptists; but I venture the opinion that an institution whose charter absolutely forbids the imposition of any religious test upon any officer or student, save the president, and prohibits the teach-

ing of the tenets of any sect, and which further places its corporate control in the hands of members of four Christian denominations, cannot be adjudged sectarian on the only remaining ground that its president and two-thirds of its trustees and fellows must represent a particular faith.

But whether this be so or not, what the founders of this university meant is clear. They meant to establish in Rhode Island, under the fostering care of the Baptist denomination, but with the aid of Episcopalians, Congregationalists, and Friends, whom for this purpose they admitted to a share of control, a college in which there should forever be, alike for student and officer, perfect freedom in matters of faith. It was a new thing in the world, this idea of higher learning without theological constraint. No college in America, no university in England, stood upon such a platform. Harvard was of the straightest sect of the Pharisees; Yale had not yet seen the light; and the Congregational clergy of New England, graduates, most of them, of the Cambridge and New Haven institutions, had, in spite of their monumental learning and praiseworthy devotion, contributed much to keep the New England

mind in leading-strings. Generations of painful struggle have at last brought the eighteenth-century New England colleges to the place where all who live in them may think for themselves; but we cannot forget that while with a great price purchased they this freedom, Brown was free born.

That the idea of the college sprang in the first instance from the desire for an educated ministry was not to its discredit. A similar motive ruled in the establishment of many of our older institutions. But no such restricted purpose was allowed to obtain in either its organization or its work. The opening words of the charter of Brown are: "Whereas institutions for liberal education are highly beneficial to society, by forming the rising generation to virtue, knowledge, and useful literature, and thus preserving in the community a succession of men duly qualified for discharging the offices of life with usefulness and reputation." What better answer than this to the flippant sneer at the scholar in politics, or to the cheap depreciation of the value of culture in the practical affairs of life? It is a glory of the Baptist denomination that it proposed to itself, in the founding of this institution, the service of the state through

the agency of educated men; and if ministers, lawyers, doctors, and teachers have always been the chief products, it is because ministers, lawyers, doctors, and teachers are the absolute rulers of American society; and when they speak, their word is law. It has been throughout a charter function of Brown University to demonstrate to this commonwealth and to the country the unquestionable superiority of the educated man for every social service.

With the removal of the College of Rhode Island to Providence, the institution for the first time acquired a habitation as well as a name; for in Warren it had had no building of its own. In September, 1768, a committee of the Corporation, among whose members we note the names of Stephen Hopkins and Nicholas Brown, was appointed "to examine what place is most suitable to fix the college edifice upon." A year later they reported in favor of a location in some part of Bristol County. Another committee was then appointed to determine the location, bargain for the land, and purchase materials. A plain brick building, not over sixty-six feet long, thirty-six feet wide, and three stories high, with windows and door frames

of red cedar, a cupola for a bell, and a cellar under the whole, was the plan agreed upon. With the possible exception of about two thousand dollars subscribed for the building and endowment by members of the Board of Fellows, no funds for the purchase of land or material seem to have been available; but no American college, I believe, has ever thought it necessary to have money in hand before planning the expenditure of it.

The removal from Warren, however, was not achieved without protest and some hard feeling. East Greenwich, Warren, Newport, and Providence each competed for the honor of having the college within its borders. Newport, with a population of eleven thousand, was the largest town in the colony, and offered the largest subscription. The advocates of Providence, among whom Moses Brown was the leader, apparently reckoned the Providence subscription as, for some reason, worth rather more than that of Newport, and urged the more central location, the well-known religious freedom, the public schools and library, plenty of building material, and two printing offices "which"—so runs the memorial—"will much contribute to the emolument of the College, there being thus

published a weekly collection of interesting intelligence, which not only tends to the enlargement of the minds of the youth, but will give them early opportunities of displaying their genius upon any useful and speculative subjects, and which must excite in them an emulation to excel in their studies." Newport had the famous Redwood library, rich in such learned works as a college would wish to use; an historian has described the town as a "centre of opulence, refinement, and learning;" but it had not been the home of Roger Williams and religious liberty, it welcomed to a share in its affections both Episcopacy and Congregationalism, it was easily exposed to attack in case of war, the columns of its newspapers were evidently not so open to the writings of undergraduates, and it had not among its citizens a Stephen Hopkins, a Moses Brown, or a Daniel Jenckes to plead its cause. The Corporation, notwithstanding the committee, had already decided in favor of Providence, unless a more desirable location should be found; and they now, on Thursday, February 8, 1770, voted, twenty-one to fourteen, not to reverse their decision, but that the college building be erected in Providence, "and there be continued forever."

The original site of the college comprised about eight acres of land. The southern half was the home lot of Chad Brown, the ancestor of the Brown family, and was conveyed to the college by the four brothers, Nicholas, Joseph, John, and Moses, for three hundred and thirty dollars, that amount being deducted from the subscription which the Browns had made to the college. The northern half, one-third of which was also originally the property of Chad Brown, was purchased for four hundred dollars from Oliver Bowen. The superb view and the ample room were the chief commendations of the site; for the side and top of the hill were as yet unincumbered by buildings. What are now Angell and Waterman streets were not laid out, while College street was only a lane. There were no houses nearer than Main and Water streets, save a few on Benefit street and here and there an isolated farmhouse eastward towards the Seekonk. The situation was so remote that more than one traveller who visited Providence during the next thirty years did not take the trouble to climb the hill. But our older colleges did not seek populous centers, but preferred woods, fields, and sky for the setting of the intellectual life.

The building committee comprised Stephen Hopkins, John Brown, and John Jenckes, of Providence, John Warren of Newport, and Sylvester Child of Warren. From the beginning the Browns took special oversight of the work, and aided it by personal service as well as by money. The college might truly exclaim with Homer, as it recalls the faithful and distinguished service of the Browns, "Not of wood nor of stone was I born, but of man!" The committee showed commendable energy. On the tenth of February, 1770, two days after the vote of the Corporation locating the college finally in Providence, a notice in the *Providence Gazette* called upon the subscribers to pay their subscriptions in the form of timber, plank, boards, joists, etc., as might be agreed upon. The manuscript account of the committee, with its detailed entries of expenditures great and small, from lumber and postage stamps to bricks, horse-hire, and rum, is still preserved among the archives of the university.

The model for the "college building," by which name the building was known until 1823, when it was christened University Hall, was the famous Nassau Hall at Princeton, erected in 1754–55, and at that time the largest and perhaps the best col-

lege edifice in the country. As President Manning was a graduate of Princeton, the choice was natural; and in any case Baptist and Quaker Providence could hardly be expected to ape Congregational Cambridge and New Haven. The idea of the college had grown beyond the modest structure originally contemplated. The plans now called for a building one hundred and fifty feet long, forty-six feet wide, with a projection ten feet by thirty on each side, and four stories high,—a building wider and higher than Nassau Hall, but not so long. The digging of the cellar was begun March 27, 1770, three weeks after the Boston massacre; and on May 14 the first stone of the foundation was laid by John Brown, who subsequently dispensed punch with a liberal hand. The foundation stones, as can readily be observed, are of various sorts, and the cornerstone seems not to have been specially marked or made the repository of papers and documents. The bricks came mainly from Rehoboth, the stone from Pawtuxet and Cumberland. The roof appears to have been first shingled and later tiled. The timbers were of oak. The disturbed condition of Boston made it easy to obtain workmen, and construction went on apace.

In May, 1770, before the building was sufficiently advanced for occupancy, President Manning brought his handful of students and his one professor to Providence, where he carried on the work of the college in the old brick schoolhouse on Meeting street. By the middle of September the timbers of the fourth floor were in place, and subscribers were urged to hasten the payment of their subscriptions. Another urgent call for money—or inch and a quarter plank and floor boards, if the subscriber preferred and would bring them immediately — was published in January, 1771. In September, Nicholas Brown & Co., on behalf of the building committee, presented to the Corporation an itemized statement of receipts and expenditures. From this it appeared that the college building and president's house — the latter situated a little south of where the Carrie Tower now stands — had cost £2844 5*s*. 3¼ *d*., lawful money, or about ten thousand dollars. About one-fourth of the amount was still owed to the Browns, and tradition has it that they recouped themselves by allowing the subscribers to "trade out" with them the unpaid balances. It was hoped that the building would be ready for occupancy when the students returned in the fall; but

Ezra Stiles, who visited it in November, records that only five or six lower rooms were finished off, and that none of the students yet resided there. The building was finally occupied in January, 1772.

In this half-finished structure President Manning began afresh the work of higher education, and here he continued to work until his death in 1791. It was, indeed, a day of small things. The students numbered twenty-two, most of them, presumably, living in the college building. The library contained two hundred and fifty volumes, mostly worthless, "being," as Manning pathetically put it, "such as our friends could best spare." The facilities for the study of science comprised "a pair of globes, two microscopes, and an electrical machine," to which was shortly added an air-pump. The endowment fund amounted to nine hundred pounds sterling, being the sum of the contributions from persons outside the colonies. Efforts to raise money for the institution at home and abroad brought small returns, and the Baptists, who had launched the enterprise, were not forward in sustaining it. The college was as destitute of prestige as of financial resource, while Manning freely, though perhaps unjustly, charged the New

England clergy with hindering its expansion.

The rules and regulations with which the college surrounded its students were framed, like the building, on a Princeton model. Morning prayers at six or seven o'clock, and evening prayers at six o'clock or sunset, according to the season, were held daily, with a requirement of regular church attendance on Sunday also. Hours of study were strictly enjoined, and seem to have filled the greater part of the day. Members of the Society of Friends might wear their hats in the college building, but others must refrain; and due respect was to be shown to officers of the college and members of the Corporation, as to all superiors. The historic quarrels of town and gown are reflected in the requirement that students treat the inhabitants of the town and all other persons "with civility and good manners." Every evening in the chapel there was public speaking by two students, with orations on the first Wednesday of the month, weekly disputations by Seniors and Juniors, and Latin syllogistic exercises. During study hours no student might speak to another save in Latin—a rule whose strict interpretation, however, would seem not to preclude ex-

clamations in the vulgar tongue. An interesting moral question is raised by the provision that the fines impósed for transgressions of the rules should be converted into premiums, and awarded to those who excelled at the public examination, the premiums of each class to be limited to the fines of that class. Apparently there was no hope of reward for the virtuous in case the sinners ceased their sinning.

No student might refuse to open his door when the stamp of the foot or staff of an officer of instruction was heard outside, nor was he under any pretence to counterfeit that token of authority. The Freshmen, in alphabetical order, kindled the chapel fire before prayers. Those who boarded in commons were charged to behave themselves decently, and neither abuse the table furniture nor "ungenerously complain of the food." For the modest stipend of one dollar per week per student, the steward was required to furnish three good meals a day, according to a prescribed bill of fare; being allowed as additional compensation the privilege of eating wth the students and admonishing them like a father. Even for conduct at table there were detailed rules and a rigid code of precedence. One can but smile at

these elaborate regulations devised for the little college in a colony where, in the view of its Puritan neighbors, few things public or private had ever been known to be done decently and in order.

Hardly, however, had the college taken possession of its new home when the cloud in the east, which five years before had seemed to many no bigger than a man's hand, began rapidly to darken the sky. The Boston massacre, in March, 1770, was followed in June, 1772, by the burning of the *Gaspee* — an affair in which John Brown's talent for prompt action and effective organization was again displayed. In December, 1773, the tea went into Boston Harbor. Before the next summer, acts of Parliament were passed closing the port of Boston to commerce, altering the government of Massachusetts, providing for the trial in England or in another colony of persons charged with certain crimes in Massachusetts, and facilitating the quartering of troops in America. The first continental Congress met in Philadelphia in September, 1774, denounced the conduct of the mother country, and promulgated a non-importation, non-exportation and non-consumption agreement. In March, 1775, the trade of New England was cut off by

parliamentary enactment; but before the passage of the act was known in America, the British and colonial forces had clashed at Lexington and Concord, and the war of independence had begun.

On the seventh of December, 1776, the British fleet with six thousand troops took possession of Newport, from which they were not to be dislodged for nearly three years. The continuance of college exercises under circumstances of such imminent peril was out of the question. Three days after the arrival of the British, a notice in the *Providence Gazette*, signed by President Manning, informed all students "that their attendance on college orders is hereby dispensed with until the end of the next spring vacation; and that they are at liberty to return home, or prosecute their studies elsewhere, as they may think proper; and that those who pay as particular attention to their studies as these confused times will admit, shall then be considered in the same light and standing as if they had given the usual attendance here." From this time until 1782 the work of the college was suspended. The college building was appropriated as quarters for American soldiers, and was so used until April 20, 1780. An attempt to resume

classes was then made, but on the twenty-sixth of June the building was again seized under orders from the council of war and turned over to the French, who used it as a hospital until May 27, 1782.

The use of the building by the troops wrought much damage to it. A large out-building was erected at the north end, the wall being broken through to make an entrance; a stable for horses was built from the east projection to the north end, with the result of weakening the east wall; many of the windows were shattered or torn out altogether; and the slate of the roof was broken. Some of the French sick seem to have been still quartered in the building when college exercises were resumed, while the stench made the north part of the building uninhabitable. No payment on account of rent or damage had been made by either the American or the French authorities. In April, 1800, Congress, after repeated applications, made compensation for the use of and injuries to the building resulting from its occupation by the American forces; but the damage done by the French was never made good.

With the restoration of peace and the resumption of regular teaching, the college

entered again upon its normal course of life. Until 1822, when Hope College was built, there was but the one college building, save the President's house; and when Hope College was added, the old building was named University Hall. When Manning Hall, the gift of Nicholas Brown in 1834, was completed, the Corporation seem not only to have looked upon the appearance of that edifice and pronounced it good, but also to have desired more of the same; and forthwith University Hall was covered with plaster. Surely the graduates of an earlier day, in whose memory rested the picture of the building in its original form, must often have prayed for the hastening of the time when that which was henceforth to be seen as through a glass, darkly, might once more be seen face to face. Further changes were made in 1850, when the chapel — the first-floor room on the west side of the middle section, and the commons — the corresponding room on the east side — were turned into recitation rooms, the chapel exercises being held thereafter in Manning Hall, while the commons were given up. In 1860 the long hallways running through the building from north to south — superb alleys for cannon-balls and other academic globules,

as more than one old graduate can testify—were cut by partitions, and the rooms of the middle section reconstructed as at present. Finally, in 1883, the interior woodwork was renewed and the chimneys rebuilt. With the exception of the subdivision of some of the larger rooms, the interior arrangement of the north and south wings is the same, so far as the records show, as when the hall was built.

I wonder how many of the hundreds who daily pass into and out of University Hall, or of those who live or study or teach within its walls, realize how much history it has seen made. Built in the early years of the struggle between the colonies and the mother country, it has witnessed the Revolutionary War and the achievement of American independence; the dark and gloomy days of the Confederation; the formation and adoption of the Constitution, and the whole splendid career of the federal government under that instrument; the acquisition of Louisiana, Florida, Texas, California, Alaska, Hawaii, Porto Rico, and the Philippines; the war of 1812; the Mexican war; the great Civil war; and the war with Spain. The continental area of the United States is three and a half times that included within the boundaries

set by the treaty of peace in 1783. The great west has been discovered and subdued, and the frontier has vanished. For every man, woman or child on the continent when John Brown laid the cornerstone of University Hall, there are twenty-five now. It was built in political dependence; it is restored in political independence and imperial strength. Its foundations were placed by a generation which was served by the spinning-wheel and the loom, the stage-coach and the sailing-packet, the flint-lock and the tallow candle, human slavery, and a state church; it still serves efficiently a generation which rejoices in the factory and the mill, the ocean steamer and the railroad, the rapid-fire gun and the electric light, and freedom as great for the mind as for the body. The French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars, the democratic revolutions of 1830 and 1848, the unification of Italy and Germany, the opening of Asia and Africa to European civilization, have all swept across the scene. Modern science and philosophy, whole schools of potent literature, modern business methods, American constitutional law, and popular government have either been created or have had their greatest expansion since it was born. The wonder

age of the world looks down upon us from its walls.

Of the men who founded this university, and labored to create here a center of learning worthy of the building which was so long its only home, one would gladly speak at length on an occasion like this; but there is no time. I cannot pass on, however, without stopping a moment at the name of the first president, James Manning. I do not know whether he was lovable or not, nor can I attempt to estimate his learning; but in the history of the university he seems to me a large and noble figure. With but a beggarly pittance for wages, he nevertheless chose the life of a teacher and minister. With neither books, nor apparatus, nor money, he took the world of learning for his parish. Through years of darkness and difficulty he stood by, laboring unceasingly and devotedly for the education of young men. When the public service needed him he responded, neither hoping for nor receiving reward; and he did not shrink from the performance of that painful but commanding duty of the scholar — the stern rebuke of evil in the society in which he lives. To this university Manning gave his life; and we honor him in recovering beauty for

the building in whose shadow he lived, in whose rooms he taught, and from whose old chapel he was buried.

Could we marshal in long procession line the sons of Brown to whom, for more than half a century, University Hall was the center of college life, we should find many a distinguished name. Watch them as they pass, and call the roll of those who gave Brown fame: Nicholas Brown, Jonathan Maxcy, Tristam Burgess, John Holmes, John D. Witherspoon, Jeremiah Chaplin, Thomas Burgess, Henry Wheaton, Marcus Morton, Adoniram Judson, William L. Marcy, Wilbur Fisk, John Carter Brown, William Read Staples, Horace Mann, Samuel Gridley Howe, Samuel Ames, George Burgess, Edwards A. Park; and from 1835 to 1861 — to come no further down — Charles S. Bradley, Alexander Burgess, Samuel Greene Arnold, Thomas Durfee, George Park Fisher, James B. Angell, Rowland Hazard, James O. Murray, John Hay. And behind them and mingled with them, more to be held in reverence than even these great names, the long line of those who, without attaining preëminence in any field of effort, carried into the daily round of labor and of life those homely virtues of

honesty, purity, industry, and public spirit whose meaning they learned in student days at Brown, and which, despite all that hostile critics may say, are everywhere and always the prevailing virtues of the American people.

And what can I say, more than has been said here to-day, of Rhode Island? Dear to many of us by all the ties that bind one to his birth-place or his home, this commonwealth has upon the graduates of Brown an added claim. It was here that, for the first time in America, a college dedicated to religious freedom was chartered; and it is here that, for a hundred and forty years, the college has lived and worked. The lives of Brown men are inseparably interwoven with the history of this commonwealth. They have served it in peace and in war. The very names on our streets, the signs on our offices and stores, recall at every turn the alumni of this institution. The great teachers whose lives have been spent here have been the honored intellectual leaders of this community for four generations. The youth of Rhode Island have from the beginning been trained here more than anywhere else; for it has remained throughout preëminently a Rhode Island institution. I could wish to see

Brown University very great in numbers, very rich in material resources, very wide-reaching in its influence, very practical and efficient in every element of its work; but I hope the day will never come when its chief benefactors shall be other than Rhode Island citizens, when the choicest young men and women of this commonwealth shall cease to resort to it, or when the pursuit of culture, which is our birthright, shall cease to be our chief end and aim.

For the discriminating and gracious generosity which has restored to us the old University Hall; for the personal interest which adds to our academic life beauty as well as utility; and for a gift which binds together the present and the past as none other could have done, the university to-day returns its thanks. May University Hall, in the simplicity and just proportion of its form, the solidity of its structure, the efficiency of its service, and the refinement and dignity of its manner, be to all who enter its doors, as to the passer-by who looks upon it, fit symbol of the university as it was, and is, and is to be!

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